

Comment threads can influence climate change attitudes by altering perceived consensus | PsyPost

By Eric W. Dolan

December 9, 2019

The comment sections of blogs can influence perceptions of consensus, which can in turn influence beliefs about climate change, according to new research published in the journal [Memory & Cognition](#). The findings suggest that readers “may be nudged towards rejection of climate science if they encounter a stream consisting of contrarian comments.”

“Social media has taken an increasingly prominent role in public discourse, and there is now much concern that it has been exploited by bad-faith actors in support of political operations. We know that ‘trolls’ and ‘bots’ — that is accounts that are in some way fake — have been very active during recent elections and may have affected the outcome of the Brexit referendum and the election of Donald Trump in 2016,” said study author [Stephan Lewandowsky](#) ([@STWorg](#)), a professor of cognitive science at the University of Bristol.

[...]

Source: [Comment threads can influence climate change attitudes by altering perceived consensus | PsyPost](#)